GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4989
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2002
NATIONAL POLICY ON OLDER PERSONS
VUKKALA RAJESWARAMMA

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a senior citizens form a body of aged persons, has urged upon the Government to fully implement the National Policy on older persons;

(b) if so, whether the Government have appointed a nodal agency to implement the policy;

(c) if so, the details of the nodal agency;

(d) whether the Government have received recommendations of the agency;

(e) if so, the details of these recommendations; and

(f) the steps taken for providing help to the senior citizens?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA)

(a) No, Sir.

(b),(c),(d)&(e) Implementation of the National Policy on older persons involves 22 Ministries and allState and UT Governments, various non-Government Organisations, with the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment as the nodal Ministry.

(f) The following steps inter alia for providing help to senior citizens have been taken: Financial assistance has been provided by the Ministry to 609 NGOs to set up 391 Old Age Homes, 469Day Care Centres, 83 Mobile Medicare Units and 2 Non Institutional Service Centres in thecountry. Under the Annapurna Scheme, 10 Kgs of food grain is distributed to each destituteelderly every month. All States/UTs have been advised to provide for separate queues forelderly persons in hospitals. Priority is given for telephone connections and to grievance redressal to Senior Citizens above 65 years. Senior Citizens are allowed concessional fares for rail and air travel. Some public sector banks are allowing higher interest on deposits by the elderly. National Institute of Social Defence conducts courses for NGO personnel engaged in geriatric care.